

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Rural Legacy Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

First floor conference room, Office of the Secretary of State

16 Francis Street #1

Annapolis, MD 21401

**All Rural Legacy Board Committee Members in attendance:**

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources and Rural Legacy Board Chair

Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Robert McCord, Secretary, Department of Planning

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Agency Staff in attendance:**

Heidi Dudderar, Director, Land Acquisition and Planning

Stacy Schaefer, Associate Director, Land Acquisition and Planning

Bunky Luffman, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Office of the Secretary

Andrew Mengel, Land Acquisition and Planning

**Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Agency Staff in attendance:**

Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Government Affairs

**Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) Agency Staff in attendance:**

Adam Gruzs, Legislative Officer, Office of the Secretary

### **Meeting Called to Order at 12:30 p.m.**

Secretary Haddaway-Riccio called the Rural Legacy Board Meeting to order and announced that this meeting is open to the public pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Secretary Haddaway-Riccio also explained that the Board may go into closed executive session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Secretary Haddaway-Riccio stated that she has not yet taken, but will be taking, the required Open Meetings Act training course.

Secretary McCord, Board Committee Member, stated that he has taken the Open Meetings Act training course.

### **Applications Received and Funds Available Background Information**

Secretary Haddaway Riccio provided an overview of the FY2020 Rural Legacy Program applications: 27 of the 32 existing Rural Legacy Areas (RLAs) submitted applications requesting a total of \$117,823,127.52. For FY 2020, the Rural Legacy Program has \$18,852,009 to allocate in annual grant awards.

Stacy Schaefer explained how the applications were reviewed by the Rural Legacy Advisory Committee (RLAC) and the objective ranking system used by DNR, MDA and MDP staff to score each applicant Rural Legacy Area. The RLAC used the scoring system, and chose this year's top scoring RLAs in each region of the State (Southern, Central, Eastern and Western) to recommend funding for projects that these RLAs had "ready to go."

Secretary McCord asked if DNR maintains a cost-per-acre for each region. Stacy Schaefer said DNR does and will share that information with Secretary McCord.

### **Voting on Grant Awards**

Secretary Haddaway-Riccio asked if there was a motion to adopt the RLAC Recommendations on grant awards. Motion was made by Secretary McCord and seconded by Secretary Bartenfelder. All Board Committee members vote aye; unanimous vote.

At 12:38 p.m., Secretary Haddaway-Riccio asked if there was a motion to close the discussion regarding RLA expansion requests pursuant to Open Meetings Act 3-305(b)(3). Motion was made by Secretary Bartenfelder and seconded by Secretary McCord. All members voted aye and the meeting moved into closed session at 12:39 p.m. See attached Statement and Checklist.

### **Closed Session - Rural Legacy Area Expansion Requests and RLAC recommendations regarding the RLA expansion requests**

Stacy Schaefer explained the specifics of each RLA expansion request and the factors the RLAC took into account in recommending approval of the requested expansions.

Secretary McCord raised a question concerning military installations around RLAs and noted that some base commanders prefer having these agricultural uses and open space abutting their installations.

Secretary Haddaway-Riccio asked for a motion to move back into open session. The motion was made by Secretary McCord and seconded by Secretary Bartenfelder. All Board Committee members voted aye (unanimous) and the meeting moved back into open session.

### **Voting on RLA expansion requests**

Secretary Haddaway-Riccio asked for a motion to adopt the recommendations of the Rural Legacy Advisory Committee and approve all requested Rural Legacy Area expansions. The motion was made by Secretary Bartenfelder and seconded by Secretary McCord. All Board Committee members voted aye and the vote was unanimous.

Secretary Haddaway-Riccio asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Secretary McCord and seconded by Secretary Bartenfelder. All Board Committee members voted aye.

The meeting ended at 1:00 p.m.